

# Rule of Thirds

The **rule of thirds** is a compositional technique that places the main subject off-center for a more appealing picture. The photographer mentally divides the scene in the viewfinder into thirds, both horizontally and vertically, and then places the main subject along one of the imaginary lines or where two of the lines intersect.

When selecting and cropping photos, the rule of thirds is a powerful concept. Draw the rule of thirds tic-tac-toe grid, as displayed on the right, directly onto the photo below. Then write a brief, yet specific, paragraph explaining how the rule of thirds adds impact to this photo.



Megan Brand, Marist Catholic High School [OR]



Hannah Ross, Mount Ida High School, [AR]

**Your explanation:**

Now practice cropping a photo using the rule of thirds. Draw crop marks on the photo indicating where you would crop it to eliminate any dead space and make it follow the rule of thirds.



Kyana-Iai Yamada, Kamehameha School [HI]

**Your explanation:**

**7** MINUTE  
STARTER

**START RIGHT 4.1** | ACTIVITY

*Jostens*